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TAGS: [PREL](#) [KPAL](#) [MU](#)  
SUBJECT: OMANI FOREIGN MINISTER "IMPRESSED" BY BRIEFING  
FROM ISRAELI MINISTER LIVNI

REF: DOHA 0317

Classified By: Ambassador Gary A. Grappo for Reasons 1.4 (b, d)

¶1. (C) In a meeting with the Ambassador on April 24 covering a number of subjects (septels), Omani Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs Yusef bin Alawi briefly shared his impressions of his discussions with Israeli Foreign Minister Livni in Qatar earlier in the month during the Doha Forum on Democracy, Development and Free Trade (reftel). Bin Alawi said that he was surprised, but pleased, to hear from Livni that Israeli and Palestinian negotiators were seriously addressing final status issues, including examining maps as they talked about borders and settlement removals. He commented that he came away "impressed" from his discussions with Livni and that the Israeli FM appeared honest in her comments.

¶2. (C) Bin Alawi told the Ambassador that Livni's briefing was particularly interesting given that he and his GCC counterparts had heard nothing from the Palestinian Authority (PA) on its negotiations with Israel. This silence from the Palestinians was somewhat odd, he continued, since the PA - which would need Arab support for an agreement with Israel - should be keeping friendly Arab governments apprised of its dealings with the Israelis. Bin Alawi accordingly remarked that he would seek the Palestinian perspective on the status of peace talks and mentioned negotiator Abu Ala (aka Ahmed Qurei) by name. "We need to hear their version of what's going on," he stated.  
GRAPPO